

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (New) Device for joining at least two layers for forming a multilayer web product, comprising a rigid first cylinder and a rigid second cylinder, the second cylinder having protuberances, said first cylinder and said second cylinder rotating in opposite directions about, respectively, a first axis of rotation and a second axis of rotation, and said first cylinder and said second cylinder defining therebetween a first nip; and a pressure roller with a resilient surface that is less rigid than surfaces of said first cylinder and said second cylinder, said pressure roller being downstream of said first cylinder; wherein said pressure roller and said second cylinder are constructed and arranged to interact such that said pressure roller and said second cylinder press against each other to provide an embossing nip downstream of said first nip with respect to a direction of rotation of said second cylinder, and said second cylinder and said pressure roller are center distanced with respect to each other such that in operation said protuberances of said second cylinder penetrate into said resilient surface of said pressure roller; and wherein

said first cylinder has a smooth surface and said first cylinder and said second cylinder are constructed and arranged to interact such that in operation said smooth surface of said first cylinder presses against top surfaces of said protuberances of said second cylinder to provide a localized mutual adhesion of two layers passing through said first nip due to a mingling of fibers of the two layers, and said first cylinder, said second cylinder and said pressure roller being further constructed and arranged to then pass and emboss said two layers with localized mutual adhesion in said embossing nip.

12. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein said protuberances are arranged on said second cylinder according to longitudinal bands parallel to the second axis of rotation of said second cylinder and to circumferential annular bands.

13. (New) The device according to claim 11 or 12, wherein said pressure roller has a rubber coating.

14. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the protuberances on said second cylinder are arranged in circumferential and longitudinal bands such as to generate on a multilayer web product areas of lamination and embossing in longitudinal and transverse bands.